KIT-Department of Mechanical Engineering based on a template from the KIT-Department of Economics and Management

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Guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in student work

Limitation:

1. Generative artificial intelligence (AI) refers to processes in which algorithms generate content, in particular texts, images, and software code. Current examples include (chat)GPT for generating text, Dalle or Midjourney for generating images and GPT Co- Pilot for generating code. This guide also applies to all comparable technologies.
2. This handout is aimed at both scientists and students at the KIT Department of Mechanical Engineering. It is intended to provide information on how generative AI can be used in the creation of scientific student work.
3. Academic student work refers to seminar papers, bachelor's theses, and master's theses. However, the information can also be applied to other academic work, e.g. as part of team projects or software development projects.
4. These guidelines never replace specific rules for the preparation of such theses, which are set by the individual chairs and institutes of the faculty. In case of doubt, direct contact should always be sought with the supervisor of the thesis.

Guidelines:

1. We are guided by the idea that generative AI is a valuable technology that we also want to use in research where possible and appropriate.
2. The central challenge posed using generative AI is the attribution of personal achievements. However, it is precisely these own achievements that are evaluated.
3. To continue to enable such an evaluation of personal achievements, we rely on transparent documentation of the use of generative artificial intelligence in the context of the preparation of scientific student work.

Basic rules:

4. Scientific student work in which generative AI was used must document this transparently.
5. If generative AI is used without its use being transparently documented, this will be assessed as an attempt to cheat.
6. Such transparent documentation can be, for example, in the case of academic student work in text form (seminar, Bachelor's, Master's), a table that is integrated into the work alongside the bibliography. Such a table should contain the following information:
    a. The text passage or figure for which generative AI was used.
    b. The prompts used to create this passage.
    c. A qualitative assessment of the extent to which the student subsequently edited the output of the AI.
7. In the case of program code created by generative AI, this should be made visible by a corresponding comment in the code.
8. By using generative AI, the user assumes responsibility for the content created. Errors made by the AI are considered errors made by the creator of the scientific student work. The same applies to plagiarism and copyright infringements.